

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2593

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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COMICEDEFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3448

EO11652 GDS

TAGS: IC, SW, PINT, MARR

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT

1. DURING COURSE OF MY COURTESY CALL AUGUST 8 ON ICELANDIC
AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN GUDMUNDUR I. GUDMUNDSSON, WE DISCUSSED
CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS TO FORM GOVERNMENT IN ICELAND AND THE

FUTURE OF KEFLAVIK BASE.

2. GUDMUNDSSON, WHO WAS FORMER ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR IN
WASHINGTON, SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE INDEPENDENTS WOULD BE
ABLE TO GET TOGETHER WITH THE PROGRESSIVES TO FORM A COALI-
TION GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THE TWO PARTIES' INABILITY TO
AGREE ON A PROGRAM AND THE PERSONAL ANTAGONISM BETWEEN
THE PARTY LEADERS. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES THAT THE SMALL
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (TO WHICH HE BELONGS) WILL BE
ASKED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT IN WHICH THE INDEPENDENTS AND
PROGRESSIVES WOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE. GUDMUNDSSON
OBSERVED THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY REGRET THE SOCIAL

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DEMOCRATS LEADING SUCH A COALITION, SINCE THE COMMUNISTS

WOULD BE IN OPPOSITION AND THUS ABLE TO MAKE INROADS WITH
WITH THE LEFTWING ELECTORATE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE GOVERNMENT
WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS ON AN ASUTERITY
PROGRAM. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THE SOCIAL
DEMOCRATS WOULD ACCEPT THE MANDATE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. ON THE US BASE AT KEFLAVIK, GUDMUNDSSON INSISTED THAT
THE ANTI-IDF FEELING IS NOT AS STRONG AS WOULD APPEAR
FROM THE PUBLICITY GIVEN IT. PUBLIC SENTIMENT IS, BY AND
LARGE, NOT ANTI-AMERICAN, BUT UNFORTUNATELY WHAT HE TERMED
THE "DO-NOTHING ATTITUDE" OF THE PRO-NATO FORCES ON THE
ISLAND HAD ENABLED THE ANTI-IDF FORCES TO MONOPOLIZE PRESS
AND PUBLIC ATTENTION.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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